GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:460
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CHILDLESS WOMEN
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a study conducted by the International Institute for Population Studies India`s southern andwestern regions show a higher percentage of childless women at the end of their reproductive span;

(b) whether Andhra has the highest incidence of childless women followed by Goa;

(c) the percentage of childless women between 45-49 years of age and the comparative world figures indicating the comparative status of each State in this regard;and

(d) the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a), (b) & (c): As per the National Family Health Survey conductedin 1992-93 and 1998-99 by International Institute for Population Sciences, a statement showing Statewise/ Regionwise percentage of childless women at the age 45-49 is atannexure -I. A similar statement for selected countries as per WHO Report is at annexure-II..

(d): The core infertility is due to biological variations in chromosome, congenital and endocrnological abnormalities. The acquired infertility is due to geographic variations in infections, environmental and occupational factors.

ANNEXURE-I

Percentage of Childlessness among currently married women age 45-49 years

Regions in India	NFHS I (1992-93)#	NFHS II (1998-99)#
North		
Delhi	2.5	0.5
Haryana	0.4	1.5
Himachal Pradesh	2.1	1.8
Jammu	2.5	2.5
Punjab	1.2	1.7
Rajasthan	3.0	1.7
Centre Region		
Madhya Pradesh	1.0	1.5
Uttar Pradesh	1.9	1.7
Eastern Region		
Bihar	1.9	1.5
Orissa	4.7	2.6
West Bengal	3.2	2.9

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North-Eastern Region

Arunachal Pradesh	4.9	0.1
Assam	1.4	2.7
Manipur	1.0	1.4
Meghalya	3.7	1.7
Mizoram	1.4	1.4
Nagaland	1.2	0.0
Sikkim	-	1.2
Tripura	2.3	1.4

Western Region

Goa	2.8	4.6
Gujarat	3.0	3.0
Maharashtra	1.3	4.1

Southern Region

Andhra Pradesh	5.1	2.2
Karnataka	4.3	2.2
Kerala	2.0	3.3
Tamil Nadu	2.7	4.2
All India	2.5	2.3

Based on less than 25 childless women

Source: National Family Health Survey, International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai.

ANNEXURE-II

Childlessness in Selected Countries

Countries	Rate
Ghana	2.6
Kenya	2.3
Mozambique	13.3
Brazil	4.6
Canada	7.4
Egypt	12.9
Iran Islamic Republic	3.1
Bangladesh	2.7
Nepal	3.6
Sri Lanka	2.6

Source: World Health Organization (1991) Infertility: a Tabulation of available Data on prevalence of primary and secondary Infertility).